

May 13, 2014

To: Selkirk-Yaak/Cabinet IGBC Sub-Committee

We hereby request that the Selkirk-Yaak/Cabinet IGBC sub-committee recommend to the IGBC and all appropriate state and federal agencies that priority be given and allocations shifted as necessary to immediately update the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan so that it is based upon today's best available science related to the North Continental Divide, Yaak/Cabinet, and Selkirk grizzly bear recovery zones.

The reasoning for this recommendation should acknowledge the following points:

- **The 1993 USFWS Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan is outdated.**

The 21-year old Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan published in 1993, which includes the Selkirk and Cabinet/Yaak recovery zones, is no longer based on the "best available science".

- **Important new research is available.**

Recent grizzly bear studies based upon GPS satellite monitoring (rather than the limitations of older radio-telemetry monitoring) and DNA analysis offer better quality and more accurate data upon which to revise recovery goals.

Recent GPS and DNA studies in Northwest Montana show: grizzly bear movement and genetic connectivity between the North Continental Divide, Yaak/Cabinet, and Selkirk grizzly bear recovery zones. Congress directed the US Fish and Wildlife Service that the authority to designate Distinct Population Segments be exercised "sparingly and only when the biological evidence indicates that such action is warranted," (Senate Report 151, 96th Congress, 1st Session).

- **Proper planning is critical for bears, people, and resource management.**

The current recovery plan, based upon outdated science, continues to impact resource management and limit access and use of public lands, land management options, and our economy.

Use of current scientific information is expected to better inform resource managers of bear habits and provide evidence which could lead to improved management and expedited delisting, bringing much needed relief to resource managers and people in affected communities.

Sincerely,

Montana State Senate President Pro Tempore Debby Barrett  
Montana State Senator Jennifer Fielder  
Montana State Senator Chas Vincent  
Idaho State Senator Sheryl Nuxoll  
Montana State Senator Bruce Tutvedt  
Montana State Senator Verdell Jackson  
Montana State Senator Janna Taylor  
Montana State Representative Mike Cuffe  
Montana State Representative Nicholas Schwaderer  
Montana State Representative Jerry O' Neil  
Montana State Representative Nancy Ballance  
Sanders County, MT Commissioners Tony Cox, Chairman  
Sanders County, MT Commissioner Carol Brooker  
Sanders County, MT Commissioner Glen Magera  
Mineral County, MT Commissioner Laurie Johnston  
Mineral County Commissioners Roman Zylawy, Chairman  
Mineral County Commissioner Duane Simons  
Ravalli County, MT Commissioner Suzy Foss  
Flathead County, MT Commissioner Cal Scott  
Shoshone County, ID Commissioner Larry Yergler  
Benewah County, ID Commissioner Pam Secord  
Benewah County, ID Commissioners - Jack A. Buell, Chairman  
Lincoln County, MT Commissioner Ron Downey,  
Lincoln County, MT Commissioners Tony Berget, Chairman  
Lincoln County, MT Commissioner, Mike Cole  
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